GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:327
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
CONTROL OF KOSI RIVER
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Barq Shri Shafiqur Rahman;Murmu Shri Hemlal;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has requested the Government of Nepal to help control flooding in Kosi river;

(b) if so, the response of the Government of Nepal in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has urged the Union Government to secure technical recommendations of the Central Committee of water resources experts for sealing the Kosi breach and construction of the Pilot channel to revert the course of the Kosi;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the other steps taken for permanent solution of the problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India has taken up the matter with the Government of Nepal at the highest political level during the visit of Hon`ble Prime Minister of Nepal to India during September 14-18, 2008. India and Nepal recognized the importance of cooperation on water related issues, in the wake of devastation caused by Kosi floods, in the immediate term as well as in the long term. The matter was further discussed in the 3rd meeting of the India Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) held recently in Kathmandu (Nepal) from September 29 - October 1, 2008. The JCWR decided to empower the existing `Joint Committee on Kosi and Gandak Projects` with financial and functional authority to identify the issues, formulate and approve annual action plans and oversee their implementation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government of India and Government of Nepal are also committed to build a Kosi High Dam at Barahsthetra in Nepal; for which a Joint Project Office (JPO) has been set up in August 2004 to investigate and prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Kosi High Dam. In the 3rd meeting of the JCWR, JPO was directed to complete the DPR by December, 2009.